

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

NEAE-00 /058 W

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P R 081107Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3262

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0349

E.O. 11652: X-GDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: RECENT COMMENTS BY GOI OFFICIALS TOUCHING ON RELATIONS
WITH US

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH BRITISH AND DUTCH VISITORS
THIS WEEK, MRS. GANDHI SHIFTED THE EMPHASIS FROM HER CRITICISM
OF THE WEST AT CHANDIGARH.

2. ON JANUARY 6 MRS. GANDHI TOLD BRITISH CONSERVATIVE MP
ELDON GRIFFITHS THAT INDIA HOPED FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE AND
MATURE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US. SHE SAID PARTICULAR ATTEN-
TION SHOULD BE PAID TO THE FORMULATION SET FORTH IN PRESIDENT
AHMED'S OPENING ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT (NEW DELHI 0224).

3. THE PM TOLD DUTCH MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT PRONK ON
JANUARY 7 THAT THE ONLY EXTERNAL FEAR INDIA HAD WAS THE THREAT
FROM THE NORTH, FROM CHINA. SHE VOLUNTEERED THIS OBSERVATION
SINCE PRONK HAD NOT ASKED ABOUT HER RECENT COMMENTS.

4. FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH TOLD BRITISH LORD
TREVELYAN THAT INDO-US RELATIONS WERE GOOD IN A NUMBER
OF AREAS BUT THAT "CERTAIN AGENCIES" HAD INTERFERED IN INDIA
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BEFORE, AND WHAT MRS. GANDHI HAD SAID AT CHANDIGARH WAS A

WARNING THAT SUCH INTERFERENCE SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE AGAIN. TREVELYAN RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH SINGH WHO RESPONDED WITHOUT HESITATION AND SPOKE WITH AUTHORITY ACCORDING TO OUR HIGH COMMISSION CONTACT WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN IS REPORTED IN CENSORED WIRESERVICE REPORTS JANUARY 8 AS SAYING THAT NO DATE HAD BEEN SET FOR PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO INDIA WHICH WOULD TAKE PLACE AT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE US STATED THAT ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN WOULD BE ON THE BASIS OF CASH AND MERITS, "IT DOES NOT MEAN MUCH TO US. ULTIMATELY IT MEANS SUPPLY OF ARMS. ANYWAY WE KEEP THE SITUATION UNDER CLOSE WATCH." HE SAID PRESIDENT FORD HAD TOLD HIM THAT REMARKS HE HAD MADE ON INDIA EMERGENCY DID NOT MEAN ANY CRITICISM AGAINST INDIA. CHAVAN SAID HE HAD TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT SIMILAR PUBLIC STATEMENTS WOULD AMOUNT TO INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY. PRESIDENT FORD, HOWEVER, DID NOT WANT THIS SORT OF THING TO COME IN THE WAY OF IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, CHAVAN SAID. HE ALSO CLAIMED TO HAVE MADE KNOWN TO US AUTHORITIES "IN CATEGORICAL TERMS" INDIA'S OPPOSITION TO THE MILITARY BASE ON DIEGO GARCIA.
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